

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The final Office Action dated September 13, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1-7, 9-20 and 22-25 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 2, 9-12, 14, 16 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-7, 9-20 and 22-25 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 4-262345 to Koizumi (hereinafter "Koizumi"). Claims 1, 2, 7, 9-16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0190630 to Lee et al. (hereinafter "Lee") in view of Koizumi. Claims 3-6 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Koizumi and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,730145 to van der Meer (hereinafter "van der Meer"). Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koizumi in view of van der Meer.

The rejection of claims 1-7, 9-20 and 22-25 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-7, 9-20 and 22-25 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, wherein "the thickness of a portion of the core between attachment grooves is greater than the thickness of another portion of the core proximate to a portion of the attachment grooves." None of the cited references including Koizumi, Lee, and van der Meer, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-7, 9-20 and 22-25 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: December 13, 2006

By


Eric J. Nuss

Registration No. 40,106
McKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 496-7500
Attorneys for Applicant